

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (New) A gold-based composition on a support based on at least one reducible oxide, having a halogen content expressed by the halogen/gold molar ratio equal to or lower than 0.05, the gold being present in the form of particles equal to or lower than 10 nm in size, and having undergone a reducing treatment, to the exclusion of compositions with supports in which the only reducible oxide or oxides is/are cerium oxide, cerium oxide in combination with zirconium oxide, cerium oxide in combination with praseodymium oxide, cerium oxide in combination with titanium dioxide or stannous oxide in a Ti/Ce or Sn/Ce atomic proportion lower than 50%.

20. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the support is based on at least one oxide which is titanium dioxide, manganese dioxide, ferric oxide or stannous oxide.

21. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the halogen content is equal to or lower than 0.04, optionally equal to or lower than 0.025.

22. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the gold is present in the form of particles equal to or lower than 3 nm in size.

23. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the halogen is chlorine.

24. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the gold content is equal to or lower than 5%, optionally equal to or lower than 1%.
25. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 19, furthermore comprising at least one other metal element which is silver, platinum, palladium or copper.
26. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein the other metal element is present in a quantity equal to or lower than 400%, optionally between 5% and 50%, compared with the gold.
27. (New) A method for preparing a composition as defined in claim 19, comprising the following steps:
- a) contacting a compound based on at least one reducible oxide with a gold-halide-based compound and, optionally, a compound based on silver, platinum, palladium or copper,
  - b) forming a suspension of these compounds in a reaction medium, the pH of the medium thereby formed being fixed at a value of at least 8;
  - c) separating the solid from the reaction medium obtained in step b);
  - d) washing the solid with a basic solution; and
  - e) carrying out a reducing treatment before or after step d).
28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein in step b), the pH of the medium formed is maintained at the value of at least 8 during the formation of the suspension of the compound based on at least one reducible oxide and of the gold-halide-based compound and, optionally, of the compound based on silver, platinum, palladium or copper, by the addition of a basic compound.

29. (New) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein in step d) the solid obtained is washed with a basic solution with a pH of at least 8, optionally of at least

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30. (New) A method for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 19 wherein it comprises the following steps:

a) depositing gold and, optionally, silver, platinum, palladium or copper on a compound based on at least one reducible oxide by impregnation or by ion exchange in order to obtain a solid;

b) washing the solid obtained in step a) with a basic solution with a pH of at least 10; and

c) carrying out a reducing treatment before or after the step b).

31. (New) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein step c) is performed with a reducing gas at a temperature not higher than 200°C, optionally not higher than 180°C.

32. (New) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein step e) is performed with a reducing gas at a temperature not higher than 200°C, optionally not higher than 180°C.

33. (New) The method as claimed in 27, wherein the solid obtained after the reducing treatment e) is further subjected to a calcination at a temperature not higher than 250°C.

34. (New) The method as claimed in 27, wherein the solid obtained after the reducing treatment c) is further subjected to a calcination at a temperature not higher than 250°C.
35. (New) A method for purifying air, said air containing carbon monoxide, ethylene, aldehyde, amine, mercaptan, ozone, a volatile organic compounds or an atmospheric pollutant or a malodorous compound, comprising the steps of contacting said air with a composition as claimed in claim 19.
36. (New) A cigarette filter, comprising a composition as claimed in claim 19.